

Name _____

- First time guest
- Returning guest
- Interested in baptism or membership
- Member

New Contact Information

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Opportunities to Serve

Volunteer opportunities:

- Help serve at Saturday meal site.
- Be a part of a team that will adopt a family from World Relief.

Worship volunteers:

- Liturgist** – Assist Pastor with readings and communion during worship.
- Greeter** – Greet people at the West parking lot.
- 2nd & 4th Sunday Ushers** —Open the church for Sunday worship and make coffee. Take offerings in bank bag to bank depository.
- Counters** - Monday mornings, help take account of Sunday offering (Must be a member of the church in good standing for at least 6 months.)



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

From the beginning of the Jesus movement, followers of Christ declared that there is no Jew or Greek, no slave or free, nor is there male and female. We, the people of Two Rivers United Methodist Church join in this movement of the Holy Spirit and declare that we celebrate the diversity of our neighborhood and the world.

We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual and affectional orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We believe that the body of Christ is more vital in its ministry when the whole diversity of the human family may enjoy full participation and leadership in the Church.

We welcome all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the Church and society, and acknowledge the pain caused by the exclusionary policies of the United Methodist Church. We will continue to work toward a more inclusive Church and invite you to join us in following Jesus Christ on the Way, marked by greater hospitality, kindness, justice, peace, understanding, and mutual respect.

Announcements for March 23, 2025

Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Classroom

Adult Sunday School - 10:45 am in the Asbury Parlor

Youth/Kids Sunday School - 10:45 am in Fellowship Hall (No Kids Sunday School March 23)

Guest Speaker Pastor Shawna Bunnell began her career at Chaddock 11 years ago, working directly with children in the residential program, school, and foster care programs. In 2019, she answered the call to Preach and became a Licensed Local Pastor for the United Methodist Church through the Saint Paul School of Theology. Combining her love for ministry and Chaddock children, Shawna now travels the region sharing about the wonderful work being done at Chaddock and how God is moving in their ministry. Outside of Chaddock, you will find Shawna spending time with her family, shopping, or working at the Christian radio station, WGCA, where she is an on-air personality.

Discipleship Schedule Monday Bible Study meets every Monday in Epworth Hall at noon (No Bible Study on March 24). Wednesday Prayer & Devotion Time meets on Facebook Live and Zoom at noon every week. Zoom Meeting ID # for Wednesday is 961 006 728. The Zoom meeting can also be joined by phone simply by dialing 312-626-6799. Once connected, dial the Meeting ID # 961 006 728, and you will join in the conversation.

3D Nights March 25 we will gather on Tuesday at 6:00 for dinner, then begin a documentary to watch together, with discussion afterwards. The full schedule of 3D Night documentaries will be released shortly. This week's film will be *Heard*, a documentary that follows several families in Richard, VA public housing.

Open Arms for Olivia Blood Drive On Thursday, March 27 from 3-7pm in Epworth Hall. To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code or contact Tracy Waytenick at tmkranchi@me.com. Use group code 4741 at registration.



Online Giving



Follow us at @RITwoRivers



March 23, 2025 – Third Sunday of Lent

Luke 15:11-32

Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the inheritance.’ Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

“When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough food, but I’m starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.” ’ So he got up and went to his father.

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him.

He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE “Blessed Assurance” - arr. L. MacDonald

GREETING

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 119:169-176) Liturgist: Donna Burroughs**

One: Let my cry reach you, Lord; help me understand according to what you’ve said. Let my request for grace come before you;

All: Let my lips overflow with praise because you’ve taught me your statutes. Let my tongue declare your word, because all your commandments are righteous.

One: Let your power help me because I have chosen your precepts. Lord, I long for your saving help. Your instruction is my joy..

All: Let me live again so I may praise you! Let your rules help me. I’ve wandered off like a sheep, lost. Find your servant. I haven’t forgotten your commandments. Amen

***HYMN #617 UMH “I Come With Joy” vs. 1, 4, 5**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Mercy and Righteousness, walk with us on this Lenten journey of reflection and renewal. There are times when we need the reflective peace of darkness and rest. Wrap us in your blanket of love when we need to simply lie down. But there are times when we need a light to illumine our way and the fire of the Spirit to kindle in us a passion for renewal. Be with us in the light and the darkness, and help us to know when each is needed. This Lenten season, lead us through the darkness and the light to righteousness. In your undying mercy, grant us moments of reflection and renewal. Through your grace, empower us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.

<Pause for silent confession and reflection>

One: Hear the good news: God is slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and ever more merciful than we can imagine.

All: We are forgiven by - and for - mercy. Glory to God. Amen

*PASSING THE PEACE

Prayer Song #256 “We Would See Jesus” vs. 4

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

CHORAL ANTHEM “Gentle Shepherd” - Dresie

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

CHILDREN’S MOMENT #277 “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” vs. 1

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy Spirit, bless the reading and hearing of this sacred text. Speak through these words and reveal to us the living Word of Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 15:11-32 (CEB)

SERMON: “The Prodigal Son” - Pastor Shawna Bunnell

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

RESPONSE HYMN #384 “Love Divine, All Love Excelling”

MERCY IN POETRY

“Portrait in Nightshade and Delayed Translation” By C. Dale Young

MUSICAL OFFERING “Lamb of God” - T. Paris/arr.P. Bettcher
Two Rivers Handbell Choir

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

***HYMN #121 UMH “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”**

(All are invited to lace your offering and the detached part of the bulletin in the offering container atp the front of the sanctuary as we sing)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe that God is love, and that God’s love is revealed in mercy and justice. Justice is God’s will for the world to be righteous. It demands repentance, the righting of wrongdoing, the protection of the weak, and the distribution of resources. Mercy is God’s compassion, forgiveness, and loving kindness that restores community, reconciles relationships, and returns people to wholeness. These two, mercy and justice, work together to restore Creation to shalom.

I believe in the mercy of the Father, who welcomed his wasteful son with open arms, an affectionate embrace, and an extravagant party.

I believe in the mercy of Christ, who challenges small-minded notions with grace, searches earnestly for those who are lost, and invites us all into the Kingdom of God. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY #95 UMH**

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE “Trumpet Volante” - Handel/arr. R. Parks

**=please rise if you are able*

*UMH = United Methodist Hymnal. You can use the red books in front of you.
Music used with permission under CCLI License:*

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK OF 3/23/2025

Your Name _____

Prayers for our Church and its ministry:

Prayers for people I know:

I have permission to publish this prayer.

I do not have permission to publish this prayer.

Prayers for the community/world:

Prayers for myself:
